

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, and 14 have been amended. Claims 15-18 have been added.

Claims 1-2, 5-11, and 13-18 are currently pending in the case.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-11, and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Independent claims 1, 6, 8, and 11 have been amended to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully submitted to be overcome. With the amendment of the independent claims, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, of dependent claims 2, 5, 7, 9-11, and 13-14 is also no longer applicable.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 8, 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

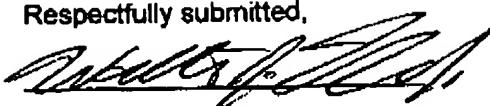
Independent claims 1, 6, 8, and 11 have been amended to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully submitted to be overcome.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the remaining claims in the case (claims 1-2, 5-11, and 13-18) are submitted to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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